

## \$100,000 Gift

# North Dakota Grocers Association Donates to Expansion to Honor Long-Time President

What is the best gift any association leader might receive from their membership? How about having a room named for you in the new expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center on the state capitol grounds? Sure beats the ol' gold watch.

Terrance Rockstad, CEO and chairman of the board of Dan's SuperMarkets in North Dakota, and Mike Kraft, owner of Economart in Williston, asked their North Dakota Grocers Association members and associate members to honor long-time association president Tom Woodmansee with a \$100,000 donation to secure the naming opportunity for one of the most-used meeting rooms in the Heritage Center. Those donations have been secured.

This newly updated meeting room in the expanded facility will be named and signed: North Dakota Grocers Association - Honoring Tom Woodmansee - Meeting Room. The board plans to hold board meetings, host socials for members and legislators, and have special events in this meeting room on the capitol campus. The meeting room is public and will be used by hundreds of other groups each year.

"The North Dakota Grocers Association has a long history of working closely with the state legislature on key issues that have an effect on our members," said Rockstad. "We are pleased to have a base in the new North Dakota Heritage Center to keep our organization on the front lines at the capitol and also to show our appreciation to our consumer families from all across the state." Rockstad and Kraft are long-time friends of the State Historical Society and Foundation, as are many other grocery store and wholesale food vendors all across the state.

"We have hosted regional meetings for the Society and

Foundation and given our customers special brochures on historic sites in our area. Now making a large contribution to this regional tourism attraction, the North Dakota Heritage Center, makes good sense in our growing state," said Kraft.

Woodmansee has been the highly-respected president of the North Dakota Grocers Association since 1984. "It was not a hard sell to get members and associate members to

jump into this campaign," said Rockstad. "The hardest part was keeping him in the dark until the gift was announced at our 50th anniversary celebration and convention in Fargo on September 11 and 12, 2011."

Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley was the guest speaker at the convention and was able to surprise Woodmansee and his family with this honor.

Twenty-four association members donated to the campaign for the expansion.

Two members, Jim Gilliam, SuperValu, Inc., Minneapolis, donated and Alec Covington, Nash Finch Company of Omaha, each donated \$10,000 to support the effort. The donations came in from all over the state and from out-of-state association members.

Rockstad and Kraft and association members challenge other major business groups to organize their membership to give a similar gift to the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion project. The \$51.7 million project, funded by \$39.7 million in state funding and \$12 million in private funding, will create a regional icon, "the Smithsonian of the Plains," here in North Dakota.

"The Heritage Center project is for all the people of North Dakota, and the Grocers Association is proud to take a leadership role to bring private funding support," said Rockstad.



Tom Woodmansee (center), North Dakota Grocers Association executive director, is honored at the annual North Dakota Grocers Association banquet in Fargo September 12. With him are his wife, Mary, and Terrance Rockstad, chairman of the board of Dan's SuperMarkets.

Photograph by North Dakota Grocers Association

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